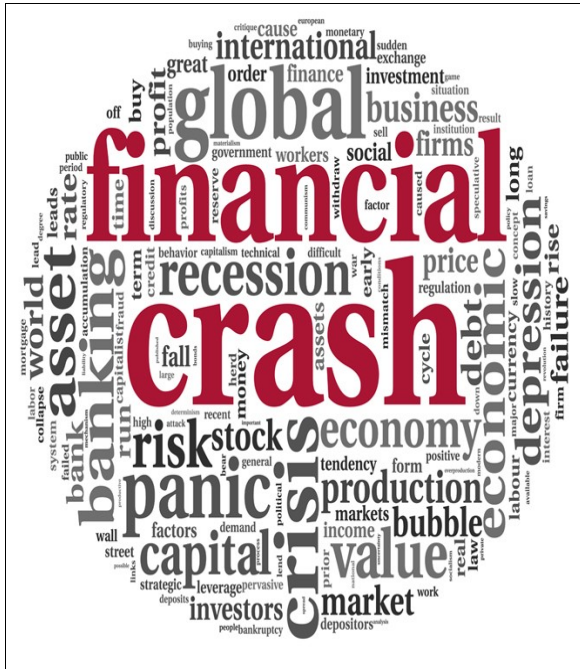


JANUARY 20, 2017



Black people must speak for ourselves. Our “sentence of slavery” in America and the wealth built on our backs give us that right and demand we truthfully examine our relationship to a country which continues that enslavement in different forms. We must acknowledge that the Obama Presidency gave us a false “hope” and distracted us from the unstoppable downward spiral of the American political economy, the real engine that drives United States domestic and foreign policy.

For historical perspective we must look at some of the previous political platforms that emerged to protect the wealthy when their economy was in crisis. Prior to World War II Fascist* dictatorships emerged in Europe. In Germany, Adolf Hitler came to power through an electoral process that saw his party garner the most widespread political support in the German parliament - a rise to power which initially cloaked itself under the banner of the “National Socialist German Workers' Party”. Once in office, Hitler systemically deconstructed democratic forms that no longer served the German ruling class.

[The open terroristic rule of the most reactionary sectors of the Capitalist Class, who have decided that democratic forms (parliaments, legislatures, etc.) of government can no longer guarantee their rule and profits.]*



The Choice Campaign



For over a year and half the “Choice Campaign,” under the leadership of the December 12th Movement, advocated that the 2016 election did not offer us any real choice and that we needed to put our issues on the ballot rather than waste a vote on someone who had no intention of representing the Black community.

Reparations is that key issue for Black people. Reparations speaks to the Black existence in the

United States from slavery until today. We are owed Reparations for the labor stolen from our ancestors, the wealth it created for white folks and the underdevelopment it has forced on our communities since the end of the Civil War.

We called for Black people to write-in “Reparations Now” in the Presidential column. In the 2016 election over 60,000 people cast a ballot for Reparations Now. This assertion of Black folks’ self-determination, of independence, was a tremendous victory. The right to reparations is an integral part of our campaign for Black people to call for a Plebiscite / Referendum for Separation from the United States.



The right of Black people to call for a Plebiscite on Separation is a political question. Our separation is not a call to divide people fighting this oppressive system, but our human right to the political associations of our choice.

As the 2016 election ended with the stunning upset of Hillary Clinton, the Choice Campaign had already foreseen the limits of voting for what someone else chooses for us. We must declare our own freedom, while uniting with all progressive forces fighting the rise of the “right” in America.

The Black Liberation Movement (BLM) is not the civil rights movement. The BLM unites with all people fighting against exploitation, all forms of racism and discrimination. However, the BLM is a movement for the total liberation of Black people from national oppression and economic exploitation. We understand the conflicts between capital and labor and the necessity of socialist ideas and structure to build a better world.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said *“I fear I am integrating my people into a burning house.”* We must heed his warning and beyond January 20, 2017 intensify the fight for the Plebiscite / Referendum and Separation.



DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT

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